



**For immediate release
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DCR BEGINS RECONSTRUCTION OF SIDEWALKS ON THE BU BRIDGE

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) started work this week to replace both sidewalks on the BU Bridge, which crosses the Charles River between Cambridge and Boston.

Work is being done on one sidewalk at a time, beginning with the upstream, Cambridge-to-Boston, side. During the construction, the sidewalk and adjacent traffic lane will be closed, and pedestrians will be detoured to the other sidewalk. Work on both sides is expected to take about three months.

The \$2.3 million contract for the sidewalk reconstruction was awarded to Unified Contractor Inc. of Melrose. Construction staging has been set up under the Reid Overpass on Memorial Drive. The staging area has been fenced in and will not affect traffic or the nearby white geese nesting area.

"We are very pleased to be able to move forward on these important repairs," said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. "The lane closures and pedestrian detours have been planned to present the least possible inconvenience, and the end result – increased safety for pedestrians – cannot be overvalued."

The project involves replacing both sidewalk spans, including the supporting steel beams beneath them and the approach sidewalk at each end, and repairing and painting the sidewalk railings.

Also, a barge will be placed in the Charles River throughout the project, but will be moved out of the channel during non-working hours.

"With numerous repairs needed to bridges throughout the Charles River Basin, I am pleased that DCR is moving forward with the BU Bridge repairs at the start of the construction season this spring," said State Representative Marty Walz.

State Senator Anthony Petrucci said, "It is essential that these repairs be made. We know that DCR will make a concerted effort to minimize the inconveniences, while enhancing the safety of the bridge."

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"Pedestrian safety, in and around, the areas surrounding the BU Bridge, has been a major concern for many years," said State Representative Michael J. Moran. "There is no doubt that these improvements will significantly increase the safety of these pedestrians."

Message boards have been installed at each end of the bridge advising motorists of the construction and lane restrictions.

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, and dams, in addition to 278 bridges and miles of roadways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.